

## “The Role of Values in Contemporary Society: A Descriptive Analysis”

**\*Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma**

### **Abstract:**

We live our lives according to our values. It's about people's ability to make a living, which implies how well people get along with one another and carry out tasks in, with, or for the environment. When planning for the long-term viability of our lives, values play a key role. Understanding one another is essential, as is its connection to the practical aspects of human conduct. Our capacity to discern good from bad, right from wrong, is enhanced by value. An individual's moral compass is the lynchpin of contemporary civilization. It is the way to live a disciplined life that incorporates philosophical views. People in a contemporary society may make a living doing what they love. In addition to providing insight into the subjective experiences of others, value elucidates the process by which we construct our own reality. Value and its many manifestations are defined and discussed in this study. Also, researchers are trying to figure out why contemporary society's morals are dwindling and, more importantly, how to teach these values in today's youth.

**Important Terms:** Values, Human values, modern society.

### **Introduction**

Ever since the beginning of time, human society has been evolving. Over time, human society has benefited from scientific and technological advancements. Brought the distant attainable, enabled the before unattainable. Feelings of contentment and joy are adequately evoked. Mountains, rivers, woods, sky, and oceans have all altered its naturalness. People are becoming more restless as they seek further comfort. Human character is deteriorating as a result of this instability. As he has adjusted to the new culture, Manodharma has sometimes engaged in extraordinary behaviour.

All people's moral fibre has been tarnished as a consequence. Moral principles are not being inculcated in individuals. Traditional schools do not provide the kind of moral instruction that is necessary. Consequently, contemporary society is seeing an increase in problems, discord, and deterioration in the relationships between parents, children, siblings, and extended family. A single term now encompasses reverence, loyalty, love, and affection. The rates of sexual assault and molestation are rising steadily. Concurrently, there has been an upsurge in anti-social behaviours including forgery-gambling, theft-robbery, and murder-harm. Society is becoming more and more impacted by fraudsters and demons. Brutality and harshness obliterate all feeling of sin. The only way to know for sure whether contemporary civilization is entering a dark era is to look forward.

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The onus is on all individuals to serve the public interest. No matter their gender, religion, or caste, all reasonable individuals should step forward. The concepts of right and evil, lawful and illegal, truth and falsehood, etc., need to awaken in individuals. Education is the key to moral growth and the awakening of latent values. The crisis of values is one of the most pressing problems confronting contemporary civilization. We hear all the time that today's youth have no concept of or regard for moral principles. On the other hand, success is a good indicator of how effective a school was. Therefore, a notion of values is necessary initially. Because 'values' are the established standards of conduct in a social setting, social life is the source of values. No issue of values outside of society can arise in a regulated society. The qualities of kindness, justice, beauty, truth, and societal happiness give rise to values, which are 'deprivable' and, by extension, 'worth' for humans. Therefore, social value is the ideal way of behaving as an individual and a group in social and communal contexts. To rephrase, it is feasible to bring about values in group and social life. From literature, philosophy, theology, economics, sociology, and social psychology, we learn about the development of values.

The norms, practices, and beliefs of a particular tribe may teach us a lot about its core principles. Virtuous women like as Sita, Savitri, and Damayanti are venerated in our cultural heritage. The brothers Rama and Lakshmana are portrayed as the epitome of brotherly affection. As ruler of demons, ruler Harishchandra exemplifies the ultimate sacrificer. It was decided that Emperor Ashoka was the perfect example of a commoner ruler who served his people. "Always tell the truth" and "stealing is a great sin" are two examples of the timeless moral lessons that our culture has worked hard to instill in the next generation. Kindness, forgiveness, humanism, and other adverbs serve as representations of societal ideals. A society's cultural way of life is incomplete without its social ideals. When we look at a society's institutions, norms, and values, we may see how social processes work there.

In the typical chain of human connection, these are the several points of origin. Everyday activities rely on values as standards for assessment, prioritisation, decision-making, happiness/unhappiness measurement, and other similar tasks. Principles of conduct are articulated in terms of social ideals. As a result, maintaining social order becomes less of a challenge. A society's values are its building blocks, according to sociologists.

#### **Importance of Principles:**

Discussing societal ideals or principles is a central focus of modern sociology. One defining characteristic of group life is this feeling of worth. The group's way of life is defined by these principles. A well-structured social life is a reflection of these principles. These principles serve as a framework for how the members of the organisation act. The term "social values" is often used in anthropological and sociological discourse to describe cultural standards. Social values are cultural norms that show the general qualities thought desirable for organised social life, according to Vidyabhushan and Sachdev in this context. Cultural ideals are a way for a society to confirm that its beliefs, practices, and material possessions are in line with its rational, aesthetic, and spiritual priorities. Each ideal's adherents use it as a standard against which they evaluate their own character, wants, and goals.

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It is also necessary to convey Clackhorn's viewpoint. "Social values are based on the knowledge or ideas about the desired objects of a group or an individual by selecting acceptable methods, norms and goals from among the various methods, norms and ideals of behaviour of the concerned group or individual," he wrote in his book "Universal Categories of Culture," where he addressed the topic. Social values, according to this view, are synonymous with more abstract, universal principles.

What sociology professor Peter Worsley means when he states, "Values are general conceptions of the good" in his book "Introduction Sociology" is that they are views on the kinds of goals that individuals should strive for in all aspects of their life.

The individual becomes proactive in terms of timing and creates appropriate behaviour in relation to their values, according to the modern concept. Values are a combination of a single, centralised biological tendency and multiple environmental factors. As prominent psychologist Allport put it, "Values are centralised system psycho-physical -disposition capable of making a larger portion of setting that is consistent with the individual's needs and that encourages the development of suitable adaptive and expressive behaviours.

When we look closely at the definition of values given above, we can see that it has a number of distinguishing characteristics. By recognising these characteristics, we may better understand the importance of values in education.

Here are the features:

1. One's feeling of value is aroused in relation to different things or points of view; values, however, do not have a singular material or intellectual medium.
2. From a psychological perspective, values may be seen as people's overarching behavioural tendencies.
3. When people act in accordance with their values, it shows.
3. According to psychologists, values are a kind of central organising tendency. This coordination happens in stages, and it takes a person a very long time to reach the final level.
4. Experiences shape people's values. Since everyone goes through something, a person's values reflect and contribute to their overall health.
5. Because one's social environment is a major part of their overall life environment, the values that an individual develops—their outlook, their mental organization—are largely dictated by the social environment in which they live.
6. An individual's values impact their interest, attitude, and behaviour. A person's degree of interest, attitude, and behaviour are all influenced by their values.
7. A culture's strength is in its national values, which serve to unify and nourish the country. Moral values, on the other hand, are the bedrock of social life; without them, there would be no social life at all.

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8. As with other forms of duty, social responsibility stems from the diversity of values held by distinct segments of society.

**Values Categorization:**

Sociologists have classified values as either intrinsic or mechanical. Mechanical values are based on judgements of what is good for the individual; they are value judgements based on outcomes. On the other hand, personal values are internal and non-physical or external. Extrinsic values, also known as impersonal values, are imposed on individuals to satisfy their moral or emotional needs, and they do not have any intrinsic or intrinsic value. Students and learning are judged according to their importance or value because of their nature and emotional nature.

Once again, values are categorised according to their subject matter. This categorization is especially crucial when it comes to teaching values via education. The values include— Values are a form of coordinated bio-psychological tendency that cannot be immediately perceived. To understand him, by observing the person for a long time in various spheres of life, one gets an immediate idea of the nature of his values. Since education is a planned endeavor, special emphasis is placed on this expressive aspect of values to understand whether values are developed through it. The ultimate goal of modern education is to help the student in all-round development to make him an ideal life. Various philosophers and educationists who have discussed what the aim of education should be have expressed this key point differently. They say that while the ultimate goal of education is to create a 'ideal life', that ideal life is neither entirely materialistic nor a spiritual realization. The ideal life is entirely individualistic. That is, the philosophy is completely life-centered. This philosophy inculcates values in the individual by harmonizing the inherent bio-psychologies of the individual. Thus, it is seen that the aim of education is to create ideal life and ideal life is to be said to be that in which a coordinated way of life is developed and this lifestyle is the transmitter of values. Judging in this way, the ultimate goal of education is to create values.

The most fundamental human values should be inculcated in students through education. This can be achieved by equipping them with the right information and experiences. For example, students should learn how to manage their own finances so that they can live a healthy life. Without a proper economic consciousness, it is impossible to go about one's daily life.

Similar to economic values, biological values can be inculcated in students through education. The development of biological values directly contributes to personal life improvement. In order to inculcate these values through education, students need to be first given the necessary knowledge. Secondly, they need to be made aware of the importance of health and recreational activities so they can personally value them.

To inculcate universal social values, which are based on a meaningful combination of one's own expectations and the expectations of others towards the individual, a well-planned education is necessary. With the right kind of education, it is possible to inculcate these harmonious social values in a child.

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A person's intellectual values are a major factor in shaping his character, which is why conventional education places a premium on students' intellectual growth.

The formation of personal principles in one's daily life is that, at first glance, the maturation of one's intellectual principles seems to be an inevitable byproduct of formal schooling.

An individual's moral conduct is often dictated by societal standards; hence, many philosophers and sociologists see moral conduct as an esteemed kind of social conduct.

This collapse in religious control in human life does not mean that religion does not have any impact on contemporary man; rather, it means that these universal spiritual ideals must be awakened in him in order for him to be idealised in his life.

Because these spiritual principles would make individuals honest, inculcating them would be a fundamental goal of education.

Aesthetic values are characterised by their ability to purify the human mind, which is why they are considered fundamental to the perception of beauty. This mental organisation is referred to as Kantaras.

There is no supernatural source for values; rather, every society goes through a life cycle that includes birth, nurture, and death. Throughout childhood, we unknowingly absorb many values from our parents and teachers. As we grow up, our values change in tandem with society. Different people may hold different values. New values emerge when old ones crumble. We can't survive as a society without values. However, when old and new values clash, society experiences a temporary crisis. Wars, famine

In order to eliminate the current crisis of values, teachers and students have to take the responsibility of creating contemporary values. A democratic structure should be established from childhood by abandoning the feudal structure. Prevailing norms have to be accepted and rejected through rational analysis by judgment. Liberal education should be introduced. People of all walks of life must be united through cohesive values, which is possible through creative education. The image of Indian culture should be presented to the students. Religious bigotry must be eliminated. Everyone should understand that the basic formula of all the religions of the world is the same. The foundation of new moral standards created through simultaneous traditional training in the individual's personal life should be transmitted later in the social life. People should be aware of things like right-wrong, right-wrong, truth-false etc. Educational policies should be developed in line with the dynamic lifestyle based on science. Unnecessary competition should be eliminated.

There will be a principle in life. Nationalism, national pride and national solidarity are our apparitional values that must be inculcated in all. All languages, castes, religions and cultures should be respected. It seems that modern society can be saved from those terrible days only if the child is educated from childhood and made into an ideal human being with the right sense of values. Economic values, biological values, social values, beauty values, intellectual values, religious values, moral values have to be developed in people. Education brings lifestyle, lifestyle brings values. And

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from there the ideal life is created. Social values are generally developed through the social environment. Machine-based modern society will be successful only when knowledge and technology can protect itself from the crisis of values

**Conclusion:**

True modernism is not defined by flashy architecture, bright lights, radio, and television. Simply because light reaches the peak of a pyramid doesn't mean it illuminates the whole structure. Even if higher education is widely available, a culture that still practices witchcraft, castration, sati, bride torture, or rapid divorce cannot be considered contemporary. True modernity is going to be a highly sought-after pricing point for us. One of the main purposes of values is to inculcate a sense of collective responsibility among individuals so that they can help shape and portray the nation in the way that its leaders envision. Imparting values to a person in a way that reinforces his or her function in society is more effective than just imparting them in a traditional manner if one wants to make them good citizens.

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